

a topology database having configuration information, the configuration information includes a name of the switch, an IP address of the switch, a software version of the switch, and hardware type of the switch; and

Q1 a mechanism for sending the configuration information from the topology database to the network and for receiving configuration information from the network and storing it in the topology database, the sending and receiving mechanism include a switch agent for receiving configuration information from the network, the switch agent looks up in the topology database and returns requested information of an SNMP query from the network.

Q2 sub c1 7 4. A switch as described in Claim 1 wherein the switch agent forms an SNMP query to the network.

Cancel Claims 6-9.

Q3 sub c1 7 10. A switch as described in Claim 5 wherein the configuration information includes a unique ID of the switch.

Q4 sub c1 7 14. A telecommunications system comprising:

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S switches, where S is an integer greater than or equal to 2, each switch having a topology database with all configuration information of the S switches, any one switch providing all the configuration information for all of the S switches, the configuration information includes a name of the switch, an IP address of the switch, a software version of the switch, and hardware type of the switch, the switches send configuration information to each other, the switches send SNMP queries to each other to return retrieved configuration information from each other, and the switches respond to the SNMP queries by sending the requested configuration information to the other switches which sent the SNMP queries.

Cancel Claim 15.

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17. A system as described in Claim 14 wherein the switches attach a systems information group to a nodal information group to propagate the configuration information to the other switches in response to an SNMP query.

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22. A method for operating a telecommunications network comprising the steps

of:

placing configuration information of a first switch of the network into a topology database of the first switch, the configuration information includes a name of the

switch, an IP address of the switch, a software version of the switch, and hardware type of the switch;

ab sending an SNMP query from the second switch to the first switch for configuration information in the topology data base of the first switch; and

propagating the configuration information of the first switch to a second switch of the network.

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220517 25. A method as described in Claim 23 wherein the propagating step includes the steps of attaching a system information group having the configuration information from the topology data base of the first switch requested by the SNMP query to a nodal information group; and propagating the system information group attached to the nodal information group to the second switch.
